THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Government has laid Route Disposal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.

Arrest of touts at Delhi Airport

1661. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a conflicting claims by CISF and Delhi Police in regard to arrest of touts active at the Delhi Airports;

(b) whether the performance of CISF has been reviewed since it took over the security of airports all over the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) With the induction of CISF at Delhi Airport, the coordination procedures between CISF and Delhi Police with regard to maintenance of law and order in the vicinity of airport were required to be worked out. In the recent meeting held between Delhi Police and CISF at IGI Airport, the procedure has been evolved. It was decided that touts, if any, detected by CISF personnel at the airport would be handed over to the unit of the Delhi Police located at Delhi Airport, for taking necessary legal action.

(b) to (d) The performance of CISF is reviewed through a system of periodic inspections, dummy enercises and surprise checks by officers of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). Lapses, if any, noticed are immediately brought to the notice of CISF for corrective action.

Airport at Kanyakumari

1662. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider setting up of state-of-the-art airport in Kanyakumari to boost tourism;

(b) whether there has been any proposal in this regard from the State Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There is no proposal, at present, for setting up of an airport in Kanyakumari.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A proposal was received in January, 1999 from Tourism Minister, State Government of Tamil Nadu to set up an airport in Kanyakumari. After examination, the proposal was not found feasible because Kanyakumari is located at an aerial distance of 80 Kms. from Trivandrum International airport.

New Civil Aviation Policy

1663. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to announce a New Civil Aviation Policy in the near future;

(b) if so, the contours of the proposed policy;

(c) whether the said policy would offer level playing field for all participants in the aviation sector including development of infrastructure; and

(d) by when the policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Government has constituted a five-member Committee on 21st July, 2003 to prepare a road map for the civil aviation sector that will provide the basis for a New Civil Aviation policy.

Upgradation of Madurai Airport

1664. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of modernization/upgradation of Madurai Airport is under consideration of Government;